

# THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

Editor and Proprietor.

DURHAM, OCTOBER 31, 1912.

## GREAT EXPANSION IN POSTAL SERVICE

The development of the country and the rapid extension of the areas of settlement is calling for corresponding increases in and extensions of the postal service. An idea of the rapid strides made is given by the fact that almost 600 new post offices have been opened in different parts of the country since January 1st, 1912. The number is increasing monthly for the monthly average from July 1st to October 1st, has been at the rate of sixty. The grouping together of new inhabitants necessitates the establishment of post offices. The majority of those being opened are in the west, but the older parts of the country are not being neglected. Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritime provinces receive their share according to the increase of population, an increase specially noticeable in the cities.

An idea of the development of the west may be given in the number of new post offices established in the Prairie provinces and the Far West in one month. Out of seventy-six new offices opened on July 1st, fifty were in points in the Prairie provinces and the Far West. The same ratio has been kept on August 1st, September 1st and October 1st of this year.

The department is also catering to the needs of the people in the rapid extension of the rural mail delivery scheme. By an act passed last session a superintendent was appointed over the rural mail delivery branch. His work was to specialize on that branch of the department's work. This has been successful and beginning with November 1st of the present year, the rural mail carriers will be equipped with a supply of orders and stamps and authorized to take registered letters so that frequent visits on the part of inhabitants to the post offices in outlying districts will be unnecessary, with a consequent saving of time and labor. The result will be a former rural mail carrier transformed into a travelling postmaster.

Mr. Bolduc, the new superintendent, states that at the end of the present year there will be about twelve hundred rural mail delivery routes in operation throughout the country. At present there are almost nine hundred. Of this number about six hundred had been in operation when Hon. L. P. Pelletier took up the reins of his department. At that time the scheme had been in operation for four years. The result of Mr. Pelletier's work in appointing a special superintendent will be seen at the end of the year when as many routes will have been established by him in fifteen months as during the four years of Liberal administration. This is all the more creditable as the circular route has been put in operation. The route under the old system was simply between places already established but the circular route takes in more outlying parts as well as the existing route, and brings greater benefit.

The Postmaster-General had intended to see for himself the growth of the country, and visit the West before the opening of Parliament, but his work in England and the early opening of Parliament have prevented him, and he will be compelled to wait for a more opportune time.

### HAMPDEN.

Miss Wilena Binnie spent Thanksgiving Day at her home at Bussan.

Mr. and Mrs. James Anderson are spending two weeks' holidays at the home of his father here.

A few from around here attended the anniversary services at Ayton.

Mr. John Milligan, while driving cattle to market one day recently, fell on his arm, breaking it, and also putting it out of joint. We hope that it may heal quickly, and that Mr. Milligan will soon be able to use his arm again. Also another of our elders, Mr. Henry Ford, while working in his hay mow, fell accidentally over the edge of the mow, and striking on his head, badly injured his back and chest. Mr. Ford seems to be a very unlucky man, but we will expect to see him around among us before long.

Sacrament will be dispensed on Sunday, November 3rd, at Hampden church. Dr. Farquharson will conduct preparatory service on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Norman Anderson spent Thanksgiving at his home here.

Miss Jennie Thompson, of Owen Sound, visited with Mrs. Archie Park one day recently.

### RIVERDALE.

Mrs. Robt. McFadden spent Thanksgiving in Toronto.

Miss Agnes McGirr, teacher at Shelburne, spent Thanksgiving at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Fentiman, of Toronto, spent over the holiday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Staples.

Councillor Lindsay had a gang of men gravelling Lambton street. He is making a first-class job.

Mr. Wm. Atkinson sold three of the horses he advertised in The Chronicle last week. It pays to advertise in The Chronicle.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hunt, of Vickers, spent Thanksgiving Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindsay.

Miss Morrison, of Shelburne, spent Thanksgiving with her friend, Miss Agnes McGirr.

Miss Annie Lawrence, teacher at Swinton Park, spent the holiday at her home here.

Miss Alice Donnelly, of Vickers, spent over Sunday with her aunt, Mrs. Robt. Bell.

The Sabbath school has closed for the winter months. Last Sunday was closing day. Mr. J. M. Latimer, of town, was present, and gave a very pleasing and interesting talk. The summer has been a very successful one. The average attendance for the summer was 55. After all expenses are paid, there will be a balance in the treasury of \$6.25, to start next year's work.

### School Gardening.

A Paper read by Miss Alice Black at the recent meeting of South Grey Teachers' Association.

The Department of Education sends out so much literature regarding School Gardening, that no teacher can fail to be informed regarding the required size and location of the garden, as well as the qualifications necessary to the teacher in order to receive a grant.

It would be wasting time to repeat this here, and I shall proceed to describe the actual carrying out of the work. In many cases there will be pioneer work to be done in clearing away prejudice against the garden and false conceptions of its aims and ideals. Prepare to yourself the average rural school where the cunning hand of the teacher is moulding the little lives within its walls. If they are to have a love for working in the soil, for the open country, for what is "real and hearty and spontaneous" it must be cultivated now, remembering the line—

"I took a piece of plastic clay, And idly fashioned it one day, And as my fingers pressed it, still It moved and yielded to my will. I came again, when days are past, The bit of clay was hard as lead. The form I gave it, still it bore, But I could change that form no more."

I took a piece of living clay, And gently formed it day by day, And moulded, with my power and art, A young child's soft and yielding heart. I came again, when years were gone— He still that early impress bore, And I could change it neyermore.

As "the power that moves the world is the power of the teacher," the first necessity for a successful school garden, is a hopeful, enthusiastic teacher, who is confident that she is working for the best interests of her pupils, in helping them to form habits of industry, patience and respect for labor, besides opening up to them a source of pleasure and profit that will last a lifetime.

Begin to talk of a school garden early in the year. Listen very respectfully to the objections, which will vary from "We send our children to school to be educated. We can let them hoe and pull weeds at home," to "Is this going to raise the taxes? If so we can't consider the scheme."

Explain that this will tend to keep the boys and girls in the country and on the farm by linking together the interests of home and school. That there will be developed a respect for labour, the rights of others and a desire to beautify the average rural home. That the child will take an intelligent interest in farming operations and having formed habits of observing, experimenting and recording will carry these into later life. That the other subjects will be made more vital, by having at hand such an abundance of material from which to gather art studies, subjects for composition, practical problems in Arithmetic, lessons in Nature Study. Time and the children will convince them if you cannot.

Keep your trustees supplied with literature along these lines, and as a rule they will at least be fair-minded enough to allow you to have a chance to prove the soundness of your theories.

Have the land securely fenced and prepared in the fall. If extra land is not available, a strip of playground might be utilized. Much better have a small garden well kept than a large one neglected. If the garden is not eligible for a grant, the trustees might grant you ten or fifteen dollars to carry on the work or the funds might be raised by having an entertainment.

Some day in March write on the Bb, a list of flowers and vegetable seeds obtainable from the O. A. C. Allow each child to select two varieties of each for his garden. Very good selection would be lettuce, carrots, verbena, aster or beans, onions, petunia and dwarf nasturtium. The teacher should keep a record of each child's choice in her Garden Journal, which should be started at once. Order the seeds early. The O. A. C. will also supply free many varieties of grains, corn, legumes, etc., besides forest tree seedlings and a picture of the college which should be passed out and hung in the school-room. Put some books relating to S. G. into the Library, e. g.

Among Country Schools—Kerns. Children's Gardens—Louise K. Miller.

Take the Schools' and Teachers' Bulletin, 10c per annum, supplied by the O. A. C., Guelph, Ont., each child to supply himself with 4 stakes, 2 in. square, 3 ft. long sharpened also a number of splints 1/2 in. wide, 8 in. long

for marking the rows. It adds to the appearance of the garden to have the large stakes painted white.

Then plan out your garden, roughly at first, then have it drawn on the B. b. to a scale. Each teacher will plan a slightly different garden. On the B. b. is a plan of a garden for 23 pupils with six extra plots for economic plants and experiments. The paths running lengthwise are 2 ft. wide, crosswise 3 ft. Plots for 3rd and 4th classes 5 ft. x 10 ft. for 2nd and 1st 5 ft. x 9 ft. These junior pupils will grow one row of each kind of seed while the Sr. will grow two.

The O. A. C. will supply booklets containing hints on gardening and it is now time to prepare the garden journals of the senior classes. They may be asked to make designs for the cover and the best one chosen and put on a dark green or brown heavy paper to form the cover. Insert the booklets and Science Note Book paper, tying all with a dark cord. Have the pupils record all their observations during the week, in a scribbling book, correct errors and have these notes re-copied into the Journals with pen and ink. After staking out the garden or planting it will be necessary for the teacher to say "Now you must put a record of that in your journal." Tools must be ordered. Buy half as many hoes as you have pupils and the same number of rakes, a spade and a couple of watering cans.

As soon as fine weather comes in April, borrow a wheelbarrow and have any rubbish or large stones wheeled away. Have the large stakes on hand and stake out your garden, using a long tape line to measure with and binding twine to stretch from end to end and side to side, putting stakes at the places where the twine crosses thus hastening the work.

Assign a plot to each pupil, the teacher choosing one also and soon all will be busy digging up the soil, pulverizing and levelling it, until every plot presents a level surface topped with soil as fine as little fingers can make it. All the work so far may be done out of school hours, though it is customary to devote an hour a week to outdoor work when the garden gets started. But most children are eager to do garden work any time and how those hours spent in the garden draw teacher and pupil together!

The planting may be done on Arbor Day which may be postponed for a week if the season is not far enough advanced or the weather unsuitable. Of course everything cannot go in now, but a start is made and the other seeds are sown as the suitable time arrives. First have each 4th class pupil take a package of seed and their splints and going out to the garden, watch the teacher as she measures the distance from the stake, lays a hoe across the plot and makes a little trench and sows the seed. They will do the same and in turn help to teach the rest. Be careful not to sow seed too thickly or deeply.

The weather is now a matter of importance and on a rainy day you will be confronted by row after row of smiling faces for this is good for the garden.

Each child in the senior classes at least should be given some experiment to work out and these must be kept in mind at planting time. Experiments such as the following might be performed.

1. Make comparisons between a row of transplanted aster seedlings and a row grown from seeds planted in the garden.
2. Compare a row of lettuce with a row grown in beds.
3. Make a study of different varieties of corn.
4. Keep a record of the yield from one grain of wheat or barley.
5. Experiment with growing peanuts.
6. Make a collection of insects found in the garden and find out how to deal with injurious ones.

The garden will be visited by every pupil every morning to note developments. Explain the necessity of stirring up the soil after rain in order to conserve the moisture and notes and rakes will then be in evidence. Choose some period every week for garden work. Friday afternoon from 3 to 4 is very suitable. March the pupils out carrying their tools with directions to weed and hoe their plots, make observations, visit each other's plots and chat away as much as they please. It is indeed a pleasure to conduct such an exercise, to see the ardour with which they attend to their plot, their helpfulness to each other, to hear the friendly criticisms of each other's results and partake in the happy enthusiasm that characterizes such an hour. When the time expires march in putting away the tools cleaned and ready

## SHE FAINTED WITH THE AGONY

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MOUNTAIN, ONT., DEC. 14th, 1910

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for use again. Each pupil owns the produce of his own plot and may use it as he wishes but on no account shall he touch that of his neighbor.

Transplant the seedlings early in June. Toward the end of June the garden will present a fine appearance, but now the time has come to leave it and arrangements must be made for its care during the holidays. Spend an hour in it the last day and see that everything is left in the best of condition. Arrange with three or four pupils to have it weeded and hoed for a small fee. Assign a particular date to each one. If the teacher could make it convenient, it is well to arrange to have the school meet in the garden at least once during holidays. See that the fences are in good repair and the gates securely fastened.

During the vacation the garden will be gay with flowers a mass of color and many will be the visits paid to it, by people who perhaps took little interest in school work before. The children will take home bouquets and from this will arise a desire to have flowers at home.

In the fall, take up the vegetables, clear away the rubbish and dig the plants. Try to arrange an exhibit at the fair to show what may be accomplished, remembering the fact that the main object is not to grow beautiful flowers and fine vegetables but to train children to have the "seeing eye, the hearing ear and the understanding heart."

As the teacher looks out over the garden, after her year's work in it has been accomplished, she may be unconsciously repeating Bailey's words when he says: I dropped a seed into the earth. It grew and the plant was mine. All I know is that I planted something apparently as lifeless as a grain of sand, and there came forth a green and living thing unlike the seed, unlike the soil in which it stood, unlike the air in which it grew. No one could tell me why it grew nor how. It had secrets all its own, secrets that baffle the wisest men; yet this plant was my friend. I went away on a vacation and when I returned the plant was dead; and I missed it. Although my little plant had died so soon it had taught me a lesson; and the lesson is that "it is worth while to have a plant."

ALICE M. BLACK.

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